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THE FEDERAL REPORT

Law Officers' School of Hard Knocks

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GLYNCO, Ga.—A federal agent says one "neighborhood" here has been the scene of more murders, rapes, bombings, arsons and terrorist incidents than any other community in the world.

The small development of modest, ranch-style homes has an illegal fireworks factory. And not far away, in an open field, the twisted, charred remains of bombed cars lie open to the weather, shards of glass and metal fragments spread out for hundreds of yards in every direction.

But the unsavory activities that occur here every day go on with the full support of the neighbors, who live in Brunswick and such seaside resorts as Sea Island and St. Simon Island.

Glynco is the home of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, a 1,500-acre, \$100 million academy where law enforcement agents from 59 federal agencies learn how to do their jobs—or learn to do them better.

The center, which celebrates its 10th anniversary today, provides everything from basic training to very obscure courses for advanced agents.

An experienced agent, for instance, can come to Glynco to:

- Learn how to drive a car to evade attacking terrorists.
- Study how to be an undercover agent.
- Take a two-week course in detecting and convicting professional arsonists.
- Learn how to investigate thefts of historic artifacts from Indian burial grounds.
- Study Spanish for work with the Border Patrol or other federal jobs that involve working with largely Hispanic populations.

"We have a real sense of family here," said Director Charles F. Rinkevich. "In the long run, this creates and promotes a sense of cooperation among the different agencies."

Courses range in length from a few days to 18 weeks. Rinkevich estimates that on any week he has 1,500 to 1,600 students. There is dormitory space for 1,450, and the rest stay in area motels.

The instruction goes far beyond the classroom instruction and physical training that most police forces provide.

After classroom training, the students are taken to a specially constructed "crime scene." There they sift through evidence and interview actors from the Glynco area who have been hired to pose as local authorities, witnesses and criminals.

After spending several days conducting interviews and reviewing the evidence in the "case," the students are expected to be able to recommend a course of action to prosecutors.

The center is operated by the Treasury Department, and trains employees of Treasury divisions such as the Secret Service, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the U.S. Customs Service.

But it also trains staffers from the U.S. Marshals Service, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Bureau of Prisons, the Internal Revenue Service and the National Park Service, as well as the Coast Guard, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, the State Department and the Central Intelligence Agency.

The only other major training center for federal agents is the FBI Academy at Quantico, Va. The Drug Enforcement Administration, which used to train its agents at Glynco, recently was assigned to

Quantico as the FBI and DEA share more and more responsibility for drug-trafficking investigations.

Rinkevich notes with pride that the Glynco school has the "largest indoor firing range in the free world."

But agents also can take special classes on body language, for instance, to help them determine whether a suspect or witness is evading the truth or telling an outright lie.

There are lessons in explosives, in how to tell whether a fire is accidental or a case of arson, and even in accounting techniques, to help agents follow the paper trail that accompanies many crimes.

Agents also receive rudimentary training in using small computers, so that sometime in the future they may be able to list and cross-check the details of their cases on a computer disk, rather than in their heads or on their notebooks.

Since 1982, the center also has offered specialized training to state and local police officers. Although

many more apply than can be accommodated, the center trains about 1,000 state and local officers each year, some at Glynco and others at courses conducted in the officers' home towns.

The training is generally in areas—such as arson investigation and white-collar crime—that local jurisdictions would not be able to cover with their own budgets.

The center also has sponsored a popular three-day program to train state and local officers to conduct investigations in the area of child abuse and sexual exploitation.

In addition, it recently has started providing specialized training—especially in counterterrorism procedures—to officers from some foreign countries.

According to Rinkevich, Israel, Egypt, Colombia, Greece, Portugal and Costa Rica are among the countries that have sent residents to the center.

The training center was started on an experimental basis in 1970 and housed in temporary quarters in downtown Washington as officials searched for a permanent site.

The government first settled on a location in Beltsville, Md., but neighbors decided they did not want the center in their community. They first complained, then obtained a court order to delay construction.

As estimates of construction costs grew, the government decided in May 1975 to build the center instead at the Glynco Naval Air Station, which already had training buildings, housing, a dining hall and extensive support facilities—and was closing. Training started in September of that year.

Today, Rinkevich estimates that he has more than 100 buildings and a staff of more than 700, including 120 faculty members—many of them agents on special detail to the center.

"There is a great sharing of information, of knowledge and expertise," said Rinkevich. "A real symbiosis occurs here."